



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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Dept of
State/INR/XR

10 Feb 77

MEMORANDUM

TO: Officers Dealing with Chinese Affairs

FROM: INR/XR - Edward G. Griffin *EGG*

SUBJECT: External Research Colloquium: "A Re-Evaluation of the Anti-Confucian Campaign"

The subject colloquium, with Professor Merle Goldman of Harvard University, will be held on Thursday, March 3, 10:00 a.m., in Room 1408 Department of State. It is the first in a series based on the Harvard project, "China's Ideological Controversies," sponsored by the Department of State under its external research program. Background material for this colloquium is attached.

Please inform Mrs. Harriet Jones, 632-2699 if you will attend.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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10 February, 1977

Edward G. Griffin
Program Office for East Asia
Office of External Research
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Ed,

The enclosed article on "The Anti-Confucian Campaign 1973-74" is a revised and expanded treatment of my article "China's Anti-Confucian Campaign, 1973-74" in the China Quarterly, Sept. 1975, pp. 435-462. Essentially it is a reevaluation of the campaign.

In the spirit of Chinese self-criticism, I confess that my session at the State Department last summer impelled me to reread the original sources and question my analysis of the campaign. As a result, I have revised the article considerably. Pages 9-30 cover some of the same material, but in a different context.

My revision stems not only from a rereading of the texts, but also from new materials. I have revised my view that the anti-Confucian campaign was primarily a vehicle of the moderates with less use of it made by the radicals. I now see it as a vehicle used by both the moderates and radicals in which sometimes the moderates predominated and at other times the radicals predominated. It reflected the waxing and waning of their relative power positions in the period of 1973-74, at least in the media. I have not dealt with the campaign in 1975-76 because I plan to do so in another paper for the State Department and because in 1975-76 the radicals controlled the media to a much greater degree and therefore the campaign no longer reflected as accurately the ideological positions of each group. As opposed to 1975-76, the 1973-74 anti-Confucian campaign displayed the ideological struggle between the two groups more openly than at any other time since the Cultural Revolution.

I know I am dealing with a controversial debate that is also going on in our own government over the events of 1973-74. I hope this paper will help clarify some of the issues.

See you in March.

Sincerely,



Merle Goldman

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MG/sw